

PETUNIA PLANT NAMED 'SUNBABUVE'

Botanical/commercial classification:

*Petunia hybrida/Petunia Plant*

5 Varietal denomination: cv. 'Sunbabuve'

BACKGROUND OF THE VARIETY

10 The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of Petunia plant originated from crossing of a wild type Petunia plant called 'NW-4' as the female parent and a seedling of Petunia plant called 'Dbl.BV' as the male parent.

15 The Petunia is a very popular plant that is used for flower bedding and potting in the summer season. There are only a few Petunia varieties which do not have an upright growth habit and which have a high resistance to rain, heat, and disease. The petunia plants, such as  
20 'Revolution' 'Revolution Purplepink' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 6,915), 'Revolution Brilliantpink' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 6,914), 'Revolution Brilliantpink-mini' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 6,899), and 'Revolution Bluevein' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,322) are decumbent type plants having long stems, a  
25 lower plant height, abundant branching, and a high resistance to heat, rain and disease. However, there are only a few Petunia varieties having a great profusion of small size flowers, pale purple color with vein patterned flower petals and a high resistance to rain, heat, and  
30 disease. Accordingly, this invention was aimed at obtaining a new variety having purplish white colored petals with vivid violet vein, together with the above features.

35 Progress

The female parent 'NW-4' (non-patented) used in the

crossing of 'Sunbabuve' is a wild type Petunia plant native to Brazil, having a decumbent habit with long stems and many branches. The leaf is very small without petiole. It has very small single flowers, the petals 5 having yellowish white (R.H.S. 155B) with strong purplish pink (R.H.S. 84A) vein.

The male parent 'Dbl.BV' (non-patented) used in the crossing of 'Sunbabuve' is a strain of our breeding lines 10 'Dbl.BV' has an erect growth habit with many branches and large double flowers. The petals have a violet blue (R.H.S. N89A) color without vein.

In April 1998, crossing of 'NW-4' as the female 15 parent and 'Dbl.Bv' as the pollen parent was conducted at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan. In January 1999, 120 seedlings were obtained from that crossing. These 20 seedlings were grown in pots in glasshouses and were evaluated. One seedling was selected in view of its decumbent growth habit, flower size and color. That seedling was propagated by cutting from July 1999, and was a trial carried out by flower potting and bedding from April 2000. The botanical characteristics of that 25 plant were then examined, using similar varieties 'Revolution Bluevein' and 'Revolution violet-mini' (non-patented) for comparison. As a result, it was concluded that this Petunia plant is distinguishable from any other variety, whose existence is known to us, and is uniform 30 and stable in its characteristics. Then the new variety of Petunia plant was named 'Sunbabuve'.

In the following description, the color-cording is 35 in accordance with the Horticultural Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England (R.H.S. Colour Chart).

#### SUMMARY OF THE VARIETY

This new variety is unlike any Petunia commercially available as evidenced by the following unique combinations of characteristics.

5       1. Decumbent growth habit with long, spindly stems.

2. Having abundant branching and a great profusion of blooms.

10      3. The flowers are single and small. The petal color is very pale purple (R.H.S. 92D) with vivid purple (R.H.S. N87A) vein.

4. The plant has a high resistance to rain, cold, heat and disease.

15       The new variety 'Sunbabuve' differs from the similar variety 'Revolution Bluevein' in the following points.

1. The stem of 'Sunbabuve' is thinner than that of 'Revolution Bluevein'.

20      2. The flower diameter of 'Sunbabuve' is smaller than that of 'Revolution Bluevein'.

3. The petal color of 'Sunbabuve' is very pale purple (R.H.S. 92D) with vivid purple (R.H.S. N87A) vein. That of 'Revolution Bluevein' is very pale purple (R.H.S. 91C) with moderate purple (R.H.S. 83A) vein.

25      4. The peduncle of 'Sunbabuve' is shorter than that of 'Revolution Bluevein'.

5. The peduncle of 'Sunbabuve' is thinner than that of 'Revolution Bluevein'.

30       The new variety 'Sunbabuve' differs from the similar variety 'Revolution violet-mini' in the following points.

1. The leaf of 'Sunbabuve' is smaller than that of 'Revolution violet-mini'.

35      2. The flower diameter of 'Sunbabuve' is smaller than that of 'Revolution violet-mini'.

3. The petal color of 'Sunbabuve' is very pale purple (R.H.S. 92D) with vivid purple (R.H.S. N87A) vein.

That of 'Revolution violet-mini' is vivid purple (R.H.S. N81A) without vein.

4. The apex shape of petal of 'Sunbabuve' is rounded. That of 'Revolution violet-mini' is obtuse.

5. Flowering time of 'Sunbabuve' is earlier than that of 'Revolution violet-mini'.

10 The new variety of Petunia plant 'Sunbabuve' was asexually reproduced by the use of cuttings at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan, and the homogeneity and stability thereof were confirmed. The instant variety retains its distinctive characteristics and reproduces true to type in successive generations.

15 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

20 The depicted plants had been reproduced by the use of cuttings and were photographed during July 2002 while growing outdoors in 20 cm pots at an age of approximately 6 months at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan.

FIG. 1 illustrates a typical plant of the new variety of Petunia plant 'Sunbabuve' while growing in a pot.

25 FIG. 2 illustrates a close view of typical foliage and blossoms of the new variety of Petunia plant 'Sunbabuve'.

DESCRIPTION OF THE VARIETY

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The botanical characteristics of the new and distinct variety of Petunia plant named 'Sunbabuve' are as follows when observed during August at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan, at an age of approximately 7 months.

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Plant:

Growth habit. - Decumbent.

Plant height. - Approximately 19 cm.

Spreading area of plant. - Approximately 85 cm.

Blooming period. - Early April to late October in the southern Kanto area, Japan. The plant shape does not change throughout this period. A typical flower commonly lasts approximately 5 days on the plant when experiencing a temperature of approximately 20°C.

5 Stem:

Length. - Approximately 14 cm.

10 Thickness. - Approximately 2.2 mm.

Pubescence. - Normal.

Branching. - Abundant.

Internode length. - Approximately 3.0 cm.

Color. - R.H.S. 145C (Light yellow green).

15 Leaf:

Whole shape. - Elliptic. The apex shape is acute, and the base shape is attenuate.

Length. - Approximately 4.2 cm.

Width. - Approximately 2.6 cm.

20 Color. - Upper side color is R.H.S. 147B (moderate yellow green). Lower side color is R.H.S. 137C (moderate yellow green).

Thickness. - Approximately 0.9 mm.

Pubescence. - Sparse.

25 Flower:

Facing direction. - Slanted upward.

Type. - Single.

Shape. - Funnel-shaped, with five-fissures.

Shape of petal tip. - Round.

30 Lobation. - Shallow

Waving of petal. - Weak.

Diameter. - Approximately 4.0 cm.

Color. - Petal; R.H.S. 92D (very pale purple) with R.H.S. N87A (vivid purple) vein. Inside color of the corolla throat; R.H.S. 86D (brilliant purple). Outside color of the corolla tube; R.H.S. 81D (light purple).

Reproductive organs. - 1 normal pistil and 5 normal

stamens. Color of pistil is R.H.S. 144B (vivid yellow green). Color of stamen is R.H.S. 79D (moderate reddish purple).

5 Peduncle. - Approximately 0.7 mm in diameter and approximately 1.2 cm in length.

Calyx. - Narrow. 5 sepals in fused at the base.

Physiological and ecological characteristics. - High resistance to rain, cold, heat and disease. Moderate resistance to pests.

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This new variety of Petunia plant is most suitable for flower bedding and potting, particularly in hanging pots or planters, and is excellent for use as ground cover. Pinching of old blossoms will enhance the formation of new blossoms.

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